

Message Text

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56

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 SS-15 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5572

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USEGJC, EINV

SUBJECT: JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL: PROGRAMS AND PROGRESS

1. JOHN BREWER OF U.S. CHAMBER CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JULY 26 TO REPORT ON STATUS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS INVOLVING US-EGYPTIAN JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL. BREWER IS MAKING SHORT TRIP TO KHARTOUM AND WILL RETURN TO CAIRO O/A AUGUST 1 TO PURSUE HIS EFFORTS.

2. BREWER'S COMMENTS COVERED FOLLOWING SPECIFIC PROBLEMS:

(A) TASK FORCE ON LAW 43. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO APPEAR INTERESTED IN RESULTS OF THIS UNDERTAKING. PRESENT PLANS ARE FOR REPORT TO BE READY FOR PRESENTATION AT OCTOBER JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT COPY COULD BE PRESENTED DIRECTLY TO SADAT BY ROCKEFELLER OF CHASE MANHATTAN, WHO PLANS TO BE IN CAIRO AT ABOUT TIME MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE (OCTOBER 11-12). GIVEN NATURE OF ROCKEFELLER-SADAT RELATIONSHIP, THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE BOTH EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE MEANS OF FOCUSING SADAT'S ATTENTION ON SHORTCOMINGS OF PRESENT LAW.

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(B) EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER. BREWER HAS IMPRESSION THAT EGYPTIAN SIDE HAS REALLY NOT BEEN VIGOROUS IN THIS ENDEAVOR. EFFORTS TO HAVE SPECIAL DECREE FROM SADAT PERMITTING ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAMBER HAVE NOT MOVED FORWARD, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF FACT THAT PROPOSED BODY WOULD HAVE ACTIVITIES NORMALLY CARRIED OUT BY SEPARATE ENTITIES: CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND CHAMBERS OF INDUSTRY, ARE NORMALLY SEPARATE IN EGYPT.

(C) JOINT MEETING. PLANS FOR OCTOBER SESSION ARE EVIDENTLY MOVING FORWARD WELL. BREWER HAS SECURED AGREEMENT TO DRAFT OF SCHEDULE AND IS FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT SOLID DELEGATION WILL ATTEND FROM EGYPTIAN SIDE. HE REPORTS HE HAS BEEN VIGOROUSLY RESISTING EFFORTS TO SECURE OUTSIDE MONEY TO FUND EGYPTIAN TRAVEL, INSISTING THAT GOE MUST PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT REPRESENTATION OF THEIR SIDE.

(C) FOREIGN INVESTMENT ORIENTATION SEMINAR. INITIAL EGYPTIAN DESIRE TO CHANGE FORMAT TO PROVIDE FOR THREE-MONTH PROGRAM FOR FIVE EGYPTIANS (VICE ONE MONTH FOR THIRTY) HAS BEEN OVERCOME, BREWER FEELS, BY HIS EXPLANATION THAT PROGRAM IS FOR ORIENTATION, NOT TRAINING. HE IS PRESENTLY WORKING ON LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND MINISTRIES THAT WILL PARTICIPATE AND EXPECTS TO HAVE FINAL SAY IN WHO WILL ATTEND. WHILE EGYPTIANS ARE AWARE THAT TRAVEL MIGHT BE FUNDABLE BY AID IF PROPER PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED, BREWER FEELS THERE IS STILL A CHANCE THAT NECESSARY COSTS CAN BE COVERED BY ORGANIZATIONS SENDING PARTICIPANTS.

(E) INVESTMENT STIMULATION. THIS PROGRAM IS STILL UNSETTLED ALTHOUGH AMERICAN SIDE IS READY TO DEPLOY INITIAL TWO EXPERTS. BUDGETARY QUESTIONS APPARENTLY ARE STILL PRIMARY OBSTACLES, AND BREWER IS OF OPINION THAT VISIT OF ALLIS CHALMERS CHAIRMAN SCOTT EARLY NEXT MONTH MAY BE REQUIRED TO RESOLVE REMAINING POINTS.

3. BREWER REPORTS THAT HE REMAINS "GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC"
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ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR OVERALL PROGRESS. HE MENTIONED THAT CHAIRMAN MURPHY IS CONSIDERING STEPPING DOWN FROM HIS POSITION, AND THAT SELECTION OF REPLACEMENT WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE IN FUTURE OF COUNCIL. AMBASSADOR REITERATED OUR DESIRE TO BE OF ALL POSSIBLE AND PRACTICAL HELP AND URGED BREWER TO KEEP US FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN COMING WEEKS.
EILTS

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